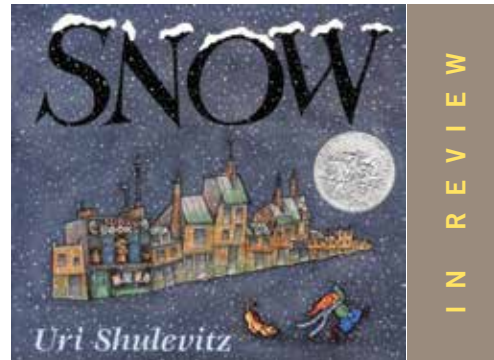


CHILDREN'S BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by **Callie Holman**

Snow

Written and Illustrated by Uri Shulevitz
New York, NY: Square Fish, 2004



“**S**nowflakes don’t listen to radio, snowflakes don’t watch television. All snowflakes know is snow, snow, snow.” Uri Shulevitz’s Caldecott Honor Award book, *Snow*, is a unique and whimsical look at the world during a snowfall through the eyes of a child.

In a gray and dreary town, one snowflake floats to the ground. All of the adults in the story dismiss the snowflake as nothing special, but one little boy and his dog hold out hope for a joyful snowfall. Shulevitz fills the book with lively language that evokes a magical experience, maintaining a childlike wonder that makes it an excellent choice for Orff Schulwerk classrooms.

“Circling and swirling, spinning and twirling, dancing, playing, there and there, floating, floating, through the air, falling, falling everywhere.” Shulevitz’s dynamic word choices and illustrations, with fairy tale characters leaping from a shop window to dance and celebrate with the young boy and his dog, inspire a variety of movement activities.

Invite students to pretend they are snowflakes or demonstrate how they would celebrate a snowfall. Encourage them to use their imaginations to describe a snowy experience for those who live in warmer climates.

Shulevitz’s illustrations also lend themselves to an examination of the emotions the characters are feeling. The story starts in a dreary town

with little color and only gray sky to be seen. As the snow falls, the town begins to transform, and what once was a dismal, depressing environment, becomes a bright and joyful place. Welcome students to examine the illustrations and create music to suit the mood. Ask them to compare and contrast the beginning of the story to the end. What caused the mood to change? How?

My students were particularly interested in the unique descriptions and depictions of Shulevitz’s characters. “Man with hat” is unusually tall, has a giant mustache, and is wearing a full-length trench coat and stovepipe hat. “Woman with umbrella” is a haughty-appearing, well-endowed individual with big hair and a tiny umbrella that would be of no use in a snowstorm. Despite the skepticism of the adults, “boy with dog” perseveres with an optimistic “It’s snowing,” at the appearance of a single snowflake drifting to the ground. These characters are fun and engaging starting points for improvisation or motive-creation activities.

Snow provides inspiration and opportunity for students to explore movement, melody, and expression. The transformations within its pages are simple reminders that evoke the joy of childhood for adults. The possibilities for using it in the classroom are limited only by your imagination. ■

CALLIE HOLMAN is an elementary music educator in Lexington, South Carolina. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Kentucky and earned a master’s degree in education administration from the University of South Carolina. Callie has completed three levels of Orff Schulwerk Teacher Education.